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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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The enclosed report based on a semi-official pamphlet entitled "Our Projects of Socialism" (Nase stavby socialismu), by Eduard Vyskovsky, published as No. 66 of the series "Publications of Lectures for Enlightening Discussion Circles" (Edice prednasek pro osvetove besedy) by the State Enlightenment Publishing House "Osveta, narodni podnik", 3 Stalinova, Prague XII, in October 1952

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The following report is condensed from a semi-official pamphlet entitled "Our Projects of Socialism" (Naše stavby socialismu) by Eduard Vyškovský, published as No. 66 of the series "Publications of Lectures for Enlightening Discussion Circles" (Edice přednášek pro osvětové besedy) by the State Enlightenment Publishing House "Osvěta, národní podnik", 3 Stalinova, Prague XII, in October 1952. The pamphlet was edited and provided with introduction by the Lectures Department of the Enlightenment Research Institute (Výzkumný ústav osvětový) in Prague. Although almost a year old, the pamphlet contains some interesting pieces of information and several documentary photographs.

1. The introduction clarifies the idea of "projects of socialism", limiting this expression essentially to the "big constructions of the Gottwald Five-Year Plan", and establishes the urgent necessity of making the entire population understand the predominant importance of these projects, and especially the key position of the projects being developed in the Ostrava (P52/059) area and of the metallurgical combine ("Huko") under construction in eastern Slovakia. It is desired, at the same time, that the lecturers on projects of socialism use this material for inciting their audience to fulfillment of production targets on behalf of the projects of socialism, and for winning them over for personal participation in the construction work.

2. The first paragraphs of the lecture itself point out the tremendous difference between the old capitalist industry and the industrial achievements of the people's democratic regime which have been facilitated substantially by the great Soviet pattern. The sum of industrial investments for the period of the Five-Year Plan is said to amount to 550 billion Kčs (old currency).

3. The idea of "projects of socialism" is specified as follows: "Among all our big constructions the idea of projects of socialism is most accurately conveyed by the development of the Ostrava area and the beginning development of the metallurgic combine ("Huko") near Košice (R49/E34). But also other large-scale projects may be called projects of socialism, e.g. the system of dams and hydroelectric power stations on the Váh, Orava, and Vltava rivers. Relatively close to the idea come other projects, such as the South Moravian power stations exploiting the rich layers of lignite in that area, which will supply electric power to large parts of Moravia, Slovakia, and Hungary. We are building large cement factories which will furnish the building material for our constructions, new giant machinery plants and foundries, etc., all of which are integral parts of projects of socialism."

4. The development of the Ostrava area is said to be of decisive importance. "In the first place, we are building a huge metallurgic combine, the Nová huť Klementa Gottwalda at Ostrava-Kunčice (P52/058). The output of this combine will be equal to that of all other plants in the Ostrava area together. The Nová huť Klementa Gottwalda repre-

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sents the core of the industrial development of Ostrava because it is to have a key position in our iron and steel production. Our Republic with its 13 million inhabitants will occupy the sixth place in world iron and steel production and thereby surpass many far larger countries. At the same time we are also enlarging the Třinec Iron Works[1] by the addition of more blast furnaces."

5. Speaking about iron the pamphlet says that the Ostrava area "has already been the main center of the iron-producing industry with its plants in old Vítkovice[2](P52/068), Třinec (Q50/087), Bohumín[3](Q50/069), Lískovec[4](Q52/067), etc. Huge quantities of iron and steel are needed for industrial development, e.g. for a press, to be located at Kunčice, which will exert a pressure of 12,000 metric tons. The Kunčice marshalling yard will have about 248 miles of rails. Even more iron and steel will be required for the development of other metallurgic combines and other plants. We are concentrating on the Ostrava area because it is there that a new combine and more blast furnaces can be built fastest, for there we can get new huge quantities of iron and steel more rapidly. We are striving to speed up the constructions in the Ostrava area as much as possible in order to have enough iron for the construction of Huko, of other metallurgic plants, of dams and electric power stations. Some of this iron is already being supplied by the Nová huť Klementa Gottwalda and the flow of iron from that plant will increase steadily."

6. The pamphlet speaks about coke and ore supplies in the following terms: "We do not build the new metallurgic combine in the Ostrava region only because iron and steel have already been produced there but also because the best operating conditions can be found there. The main ingredients for production of iron are coke and ore. We are, and will be, digging for ore at various places in the Republic and after completion of the new ore mines we will be occupying one of the first places in Europe. This ore, transported to Ostrava from the Republic, will be supplemented by shipments from abroad. Ostrava is located most suitably because the ore can be transported there from Polish ports via the Oder River, and good communication facilities are available between this town and the places from where Soviet ore is imported. The main thing, however, is that the Ostrava region is rich in coal of the best quality out of which coke can be made. We need huge quantities of it. One new blast furnace alone uses up 150 railroad carloads of ore and coke daily, and there are and will be a lot of these furnaces around Ostrava. This is why the construction of the new Ostrava metallurgic combine is closely connected with our efforts of raising the outrut of the Ostrava coal pits. How can we raise this outrut? The decisions made by the Party and the Government show the best way to this goal is to secure the appropriate labor force, to raise the productivity with the aid of new labor methods such as "cyclic operation" (cyklická práce) and mechanization and electrification in the pits, and finally to open new large pits. In connection with this the construction of new coking plants is planned to work up into coke for iron and steel production the millions of tons of coal which the Ostrava region is already producing and which will be even greater in the future."

7. "The metallurgical plants, continues the pamphlet, need great quantities of water, which is, and has always been, relatively scarce in the Ostrava area. It is therefore necessary to secure a sufficient supply of it. The development program for this area, therefore, provides for the construction of two dams[5] which will be important water suppliers for Ostrava. These two dams are only the first steps towards building a whole dam network to secure sufficient quantities of water for the industry, for water transports (particularly after a final decision on the Danube-Oder Canal project), and also for the population of old and new Ostrava."

8. "The aforesaid does not exhaust by far all the tasks connected with the development of the Ostrava industry. The words "metallurgic combine" do not only convey the idea of blast furnaces and steel mills,

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but also mean a whole group of plants processing the steel ingots and semi-finished products, such as a rolling mill, a pipe factory, a steel bending plant, etc. One can get a good idea of the extent of these accessory workshops if realizing that, for example, the new rolling line will be 1,094 yards in length, and the steel bending plant will cover an area of 3¼ acres, i.e. about one-third of the Wenceslas Square (in Prague), and will process seven railroad carloads of rod steel daily. The construction of new plants for machinery and equipment is part of the industrial development scheme as well. Many of them will be located in the Ostrava area."

9. "Ostrava coal is also a very valuable raw material for the chemical industry. During the coke production process, a lot of chemical compounds come into existence and are changed by futher processing into tar, asphalt, etc., and into the most complex and valuable chemical products as well, such as precious drugs and expensive dyestuffs. The development of coking plants must naturally be accompanied by processing of by-products, and the enlargement and modernization of the plants involved as well as the construction of new plants for this purpose is naturally also an integral part of the Ostrava industrial development scheme."

10. The pamphlet further deals with the necessity of preparing living accommodations for the newcomers to the industry and points out that Ostrava is to be the first "socialist town" in Czechoslovakia and to have about 300,000 inhabitants. After several pages of Communist rhetoric the pamphlet turns to other "projects of socialism", in the first place to the metallurgic combine in Slovakia, and continues as follows:

11. "The biggest construction project is that of the Metallurgic Combine in eastern Slovakia, which will contain even bigger entities than the Ostrava combine, e.g. a rolling mill of 1,312 yards in length. The output of Huko will be so large that the steel rods produced there, if put in line, would stretch round the Earth's equator." ... "We are building Huko, so to say, 'on the green meadow'. In an area where there was no industry and which was far from the center of the Republic and was considered as backward and undeveloped, an industrial enterprise of gigantic dimensions is coming into being which is a part and at the same time also a pillar of Slovakia's industrialization." ... "Moreover, Huko is of State-wide importance because the quantities of iron and steel which will flow out of the east Slovakian metallurgic plants, will be a further contribution to the gigantic development of our Republic."

12. "The more thoroughly the preparations are done - even if they require a certain amount of time - the faster can the construction process itself be carried out. Great care, therefore, is given to blueprints, road-building, railroad constructions, preparation of the terrain, and plants for processing of the building material which has already been stored there in gigantic quantities. The quantity of gravel alone which will be needed will amount to 131,000 cubic yards, i.e. enough to cover Wenceslas Square to a height of 8'2½". The concrete plant of the Huko project works up daily 2,616 cubic yards, equal to 200 railroad carloads, of a mixture of sand, gravel, and cement. The timber store needs 48,400 cubic yards of timber and the carpenter workshops work up 261½ cubic yards daily. The construction workshops at the building site will cover an area of more than three acres. About 800 railroad freightcars a day will move on 143 miles of side tracks. The excavations which will have to be made would form a ditch 2½ mile long, 110 yards wide, and 32½ feet deep. These few figures show how huge a work is involved and what preparations have to be done for it."6

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13. The pamphlet further speaks about plans for building up a new "socialist town" around Huko to provide living accommodations for its workers. It is stated that the training of workers for Huko has already begun in the Czech provinces.

14. The following is said about other projects in Slovakia: "While Huko is being built, the construction of other big enterprises in the Hron Valley[7] and elsewhere is under way. We are building a number of other huge plants which are in direct connection with the Huko project. In the first place we are enlarging the coal potential of Slovakia by developing and modernizing the existing coal pits as well as by setting to work a new coal basin[8] which will secure sufficient quantities of fuel. Moreover, we are enlarging, modernizing, or founding ore mines which will supply enough iron ore and other raw materials for the metallurgic industry."

15. The pamphlet further deals with dams and power stations. "We are creating a power potential by constructing a number of dams with electric power stations. The big Orava dam[9] and a network of dams on the Vah River[10] and other rivers in Slovakia will give impetus to widespread progress in electrification which is an indispensable condition for further development. After completion of these projects, the Slovak power stations alone will produce as much electric energy as did all power stations of capitalist Czechoslovakia prior to World War II. The share of hydroelectric stations in the total production of electric power will be enlarged and will be three times as large as prior to the War. Also the development of hydroelectric power in the Czech provinces is a part of the program of projects of socialism. There are in the first place a number of dams and power stations on the Vltava River from its upper course - where the 'Šumava Sea' will come into being near Lipno (N49/Q62) - via Orlík (N50/L61) to Slapy (050/L75)."

16. "The development of caloric power stations is closely connected with that program. The most interesting project is the construction of the Energostav near Hodonin (P49/S87) - this is the present name of this project. There we are going to make use of layers of lignite, an inferior fuel,[11] for the production of electric energy which will be supplied not only to a large part of Moravia, but also to the adjoining area of Slovakia and to a considerable part of the befriended people's democratic Hungary."

17. The pamphlet goes on quoting several new plants which will supply building material and equipment for the 'projects of socialism'. Four cement factories are said to be under construction; at Prachovice (050/M67) in eastern Bohemia, at Hranice (P50/025) in Moravia, and two more at unspecified localities[12] in Slovakia. The Žďár Machinery Works and Foundries (Žďárské strojírny a slévárny) at Žďár (050/M93) in the Bohemo-Moravian Hill Ridge (Českomoravská vysočina) are also mentioned.

18. The pamphlet also mentions plans for water projects, particularly on the Danube River, which will come into closer consideration after completion of the first Five-Year Plan, and closes with a vision of the future wealth and happiness to be produced by the 'projects of socialism'.

19. The pamphlet contains eight reproductions of photographs, six of which have been reproduced and which are accompanied by the following texts:

a. The second blast furnace of the Nová huť Klementa Gottwalda in Ostrava-Kunčice is festively put in operation on 1 October 1952. At the same time the first part of the coking plant is prepared for operation and work on the third Martin furnace has been completed. (See: Enclosure # 1.)

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b. View of a part of the huge construction site of the Nová huť Klementa Gottwalda at Kuncice seen in the direction from the gas cleaner to the gas container and the steel mill. (See: Enclosure # 2.)

c. The sixth blast furnace, the "First-of-May Furnace", under construction at the V.M.Molotov Iron Works in Třinec. (See: Enclosure # 3.)

d. View of a part of a bunker construction and a high crane which transports building material to individual parts of the power combine project at Hodonin. (See: Enclosure # 4.)

e. Building site of the most modern Czechoslovak cement plant at Hranice the production of which is earmarked for our projects of socialism. (See: Enclosure # 5.)

f. At the central building site of the Metallurgic Combine (Huko) individual construction items are growing at a fast pace. (See: Enclosure # 6.)

1. [redacted] Comment. V.M.Molotov Iron Works (Železárny V.M.Molotova, národní podnik) at Třinec. 50X1-HUM

2. [redacted] Comment. Vítkovické železárny Klementa Gottwalda, národní podnik, Ostrava-Vítkovice.

3. [redacted] Comment. Bohumínske železárny Gustava Klimenta, národní podnik, Bohumín.

4. [redacted] Comment. Stalingrad Iron Works (Železárny Stalingrad, národní podnik), Lískovec.

5. [redacted] Comment. According to radio news monitored recently, one dam is under construction between Žermanice (Q50/068) and Soběšovice (Q50/068) in the Lučina River valley, and the other one near Vyšší Lhoty (Q50/077) in the valley of the Morávka River. The latter will be 2½ miles long and store several million cubic yards of water.

6. [redacted] Comment. The Huko project was given very much publicity in newspapers and radio programs until the second half of 1952. As late as September 1952 personnel was sought by newspaper advertisements for the Hutný projekt, národný podnik, which was entrusted with designing work for Huko. Then rather suddenly silence set in about Huko. There are persistent rumors to the effect that the whole Huko project has been abandoned.

7. [redacted] Comment. Reference is apparently made to Kovohuty Hron, národný podnik, at Svätý Kríž nad Hronom (Q49/C54), the Levické kotliarne, národný podnik, at Tlmače (Q49/T92), and armament plants at Hriňová (Q49/D04) and Pstruše-Vigláš (Q49/C83).

8. [redacted] Comment. There are three lignite deposits being exploited in Slovakia, viz. those of Handlová (Q49/C46), Nováky (Q49/T97), and of Modrý Kámeň (Q49/C80) - Pôtor (Q49/C90). Nothing is known here about new basins.

9. [redacted] Comment. According to radio news, the Orava dam at Ústie nad Oravou (Q50/Ï12) was put in operation on 2 May 1953.

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10. [redacted] Comment. The Váh River dams under construction are located at Púchov-Nosice (P50/071), Trenčín-Skalka (P49/T48), Kostolná-Trenčianské Biskupice (P49/T48), Nové Mesto nad Váhom (P49/T46), and Horná Streda (P49/T45). 50X1-HUM

11. [redacted] Comment. The word "lignite" in this case does not refer to normal brown coal but to fossil wood. 50X1-HUM

12. [redacted] Comment. One of these plants is apparently that of Stupava (P49/S80). 50X1-HUM

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Encl. #1

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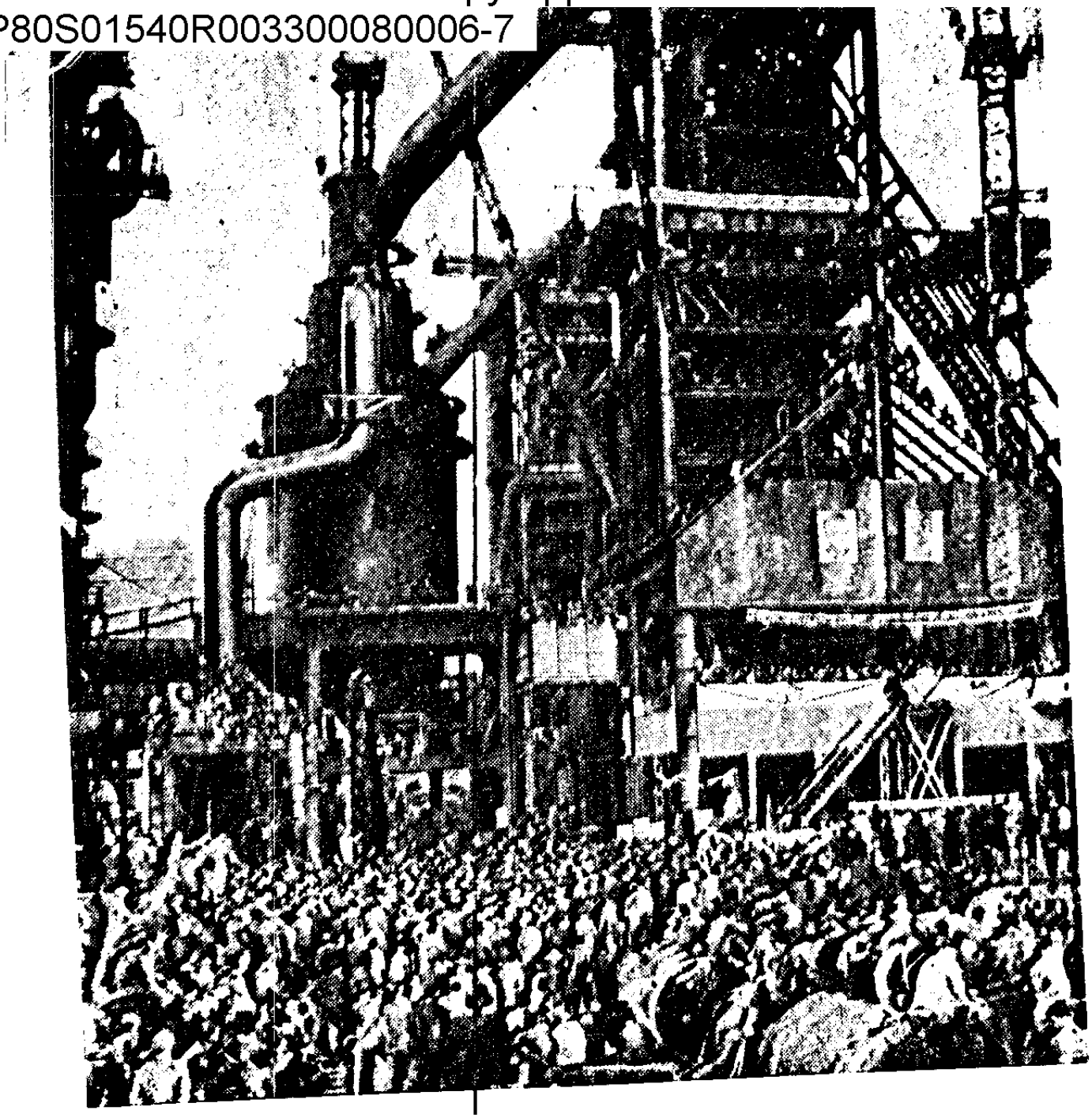

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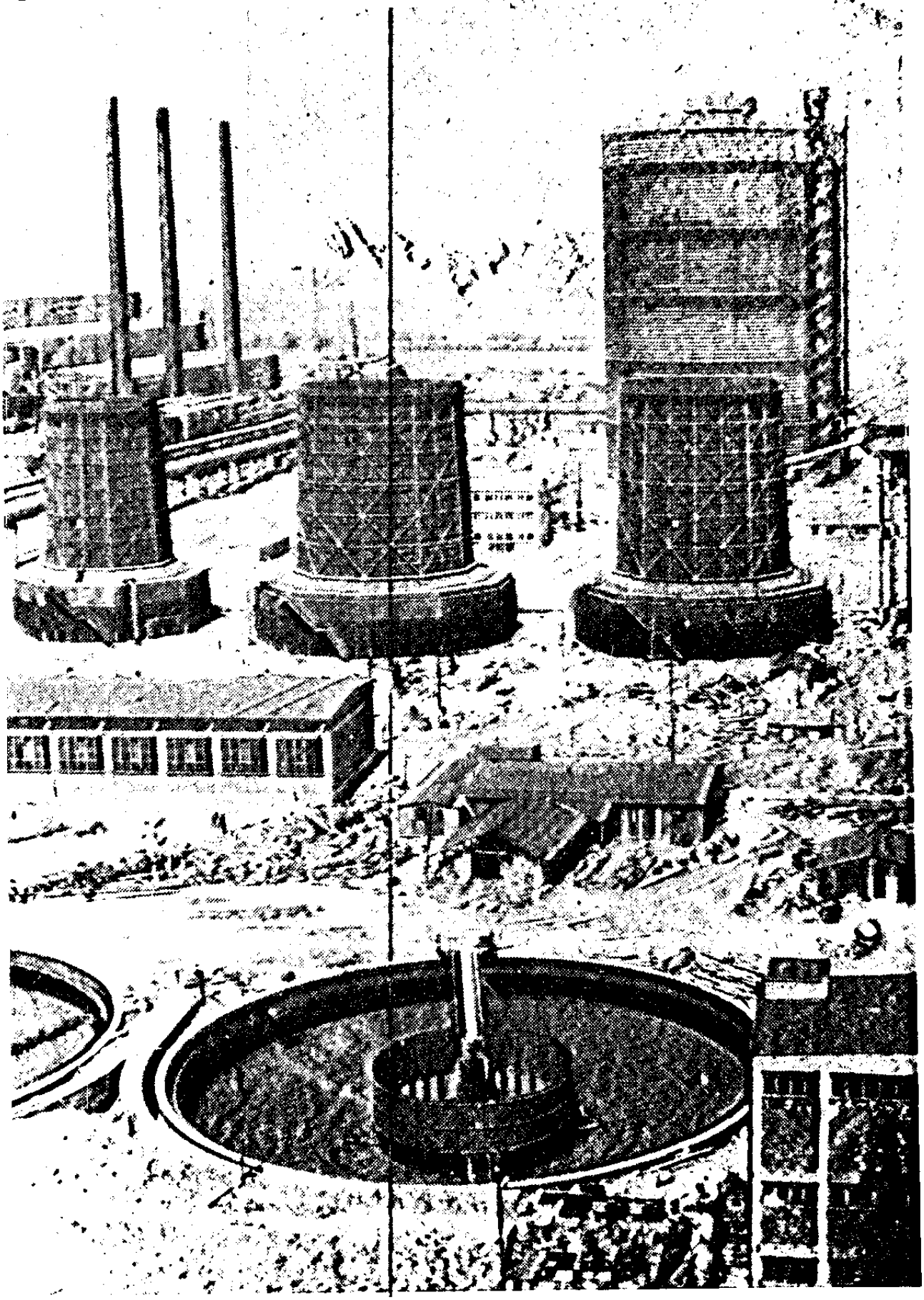

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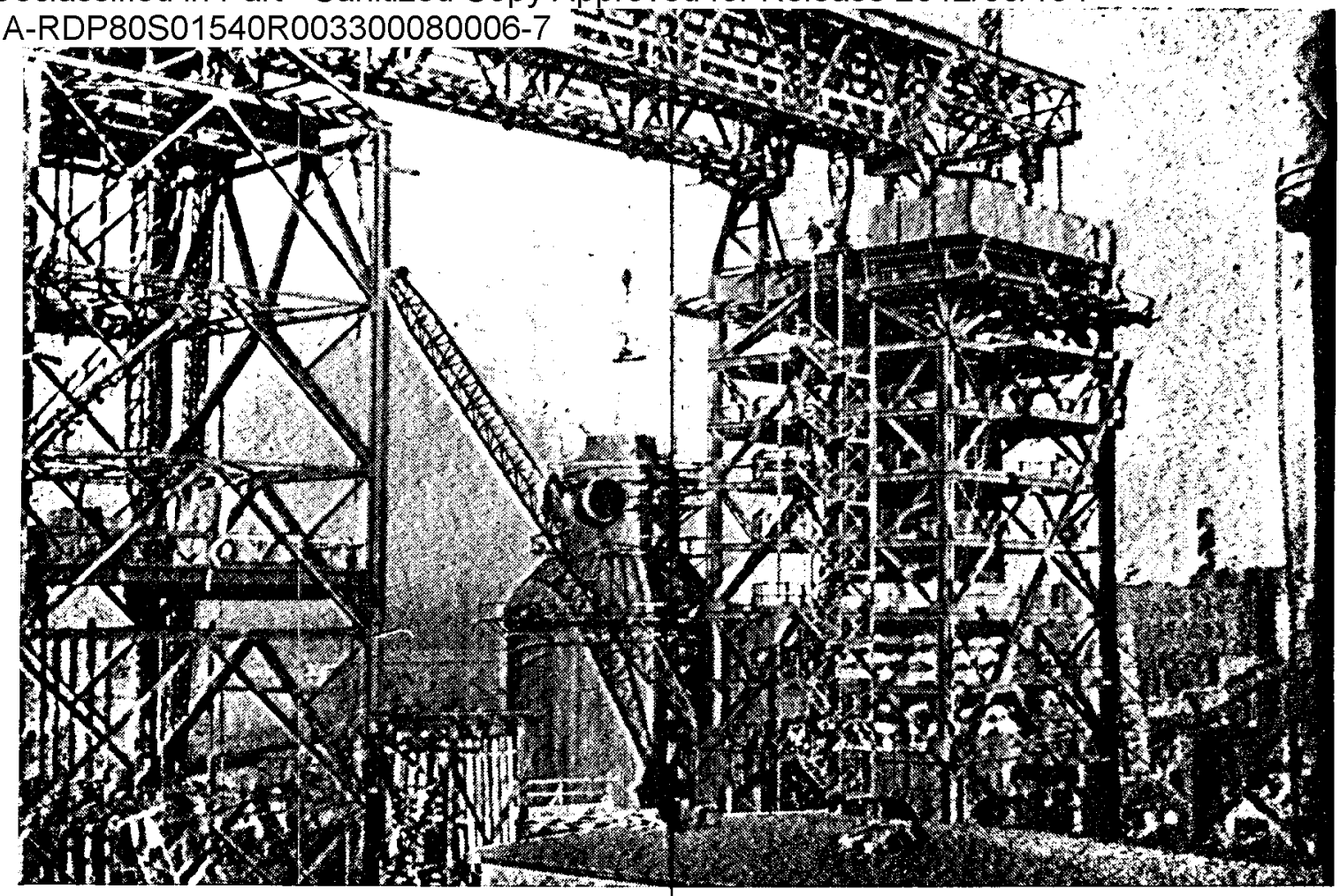

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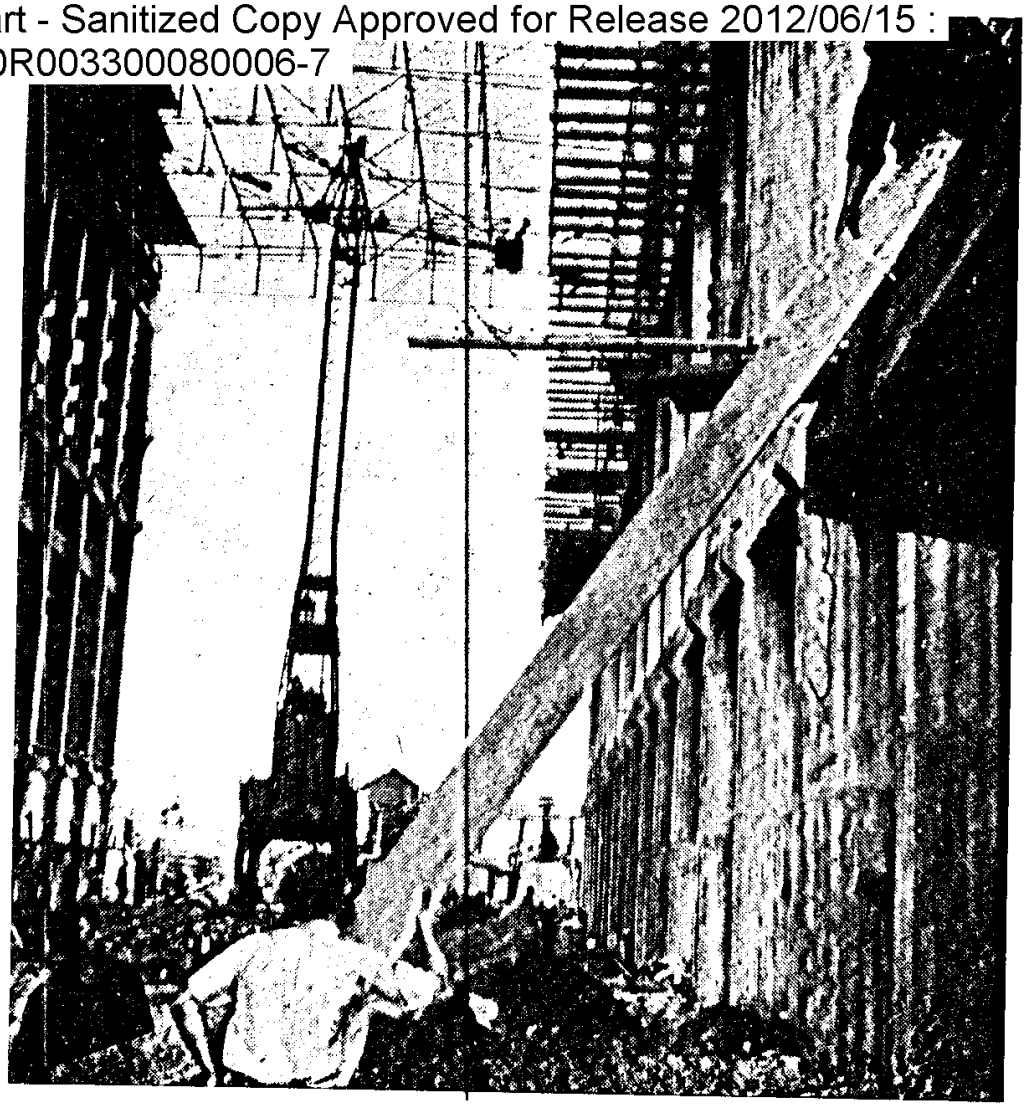

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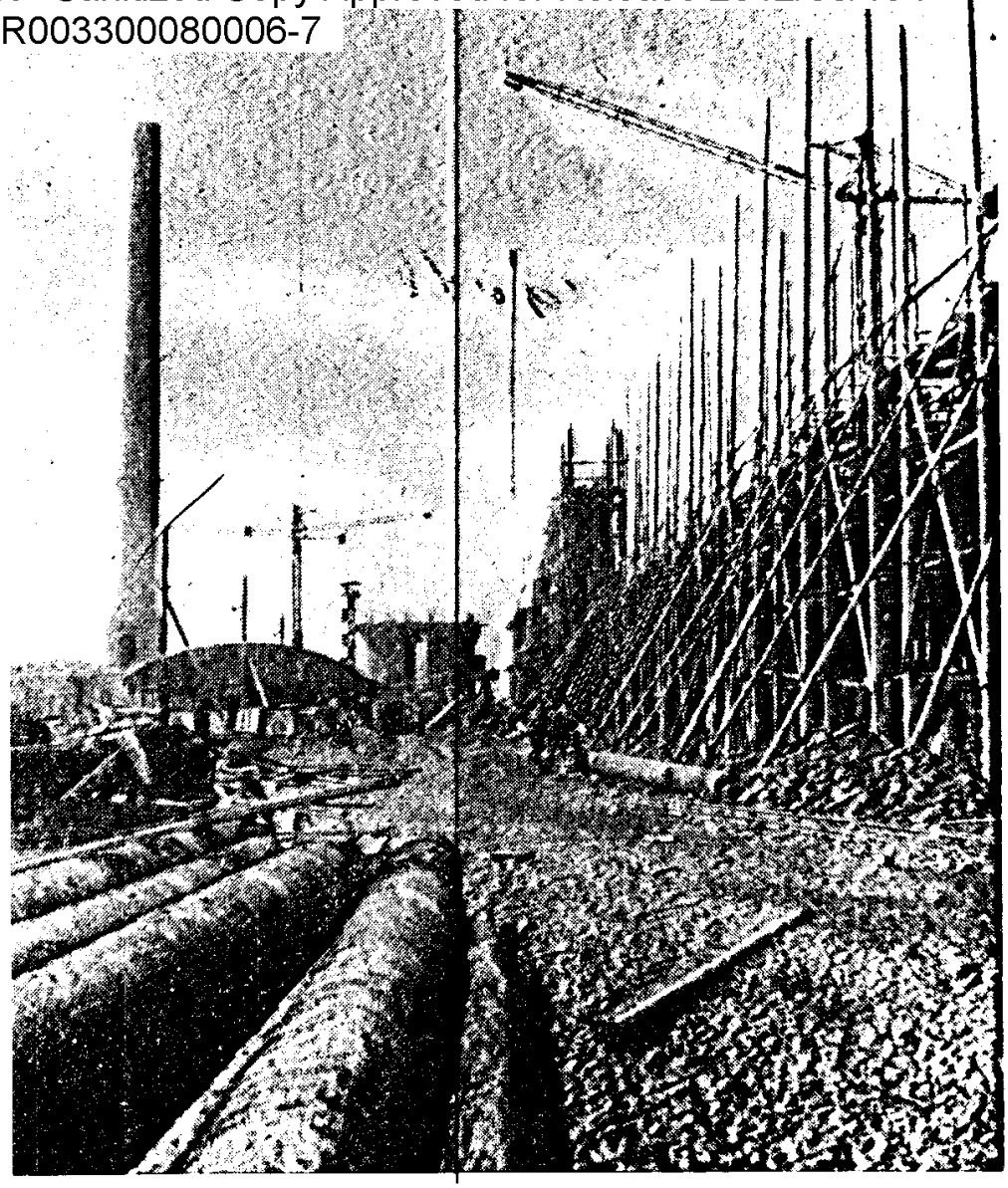

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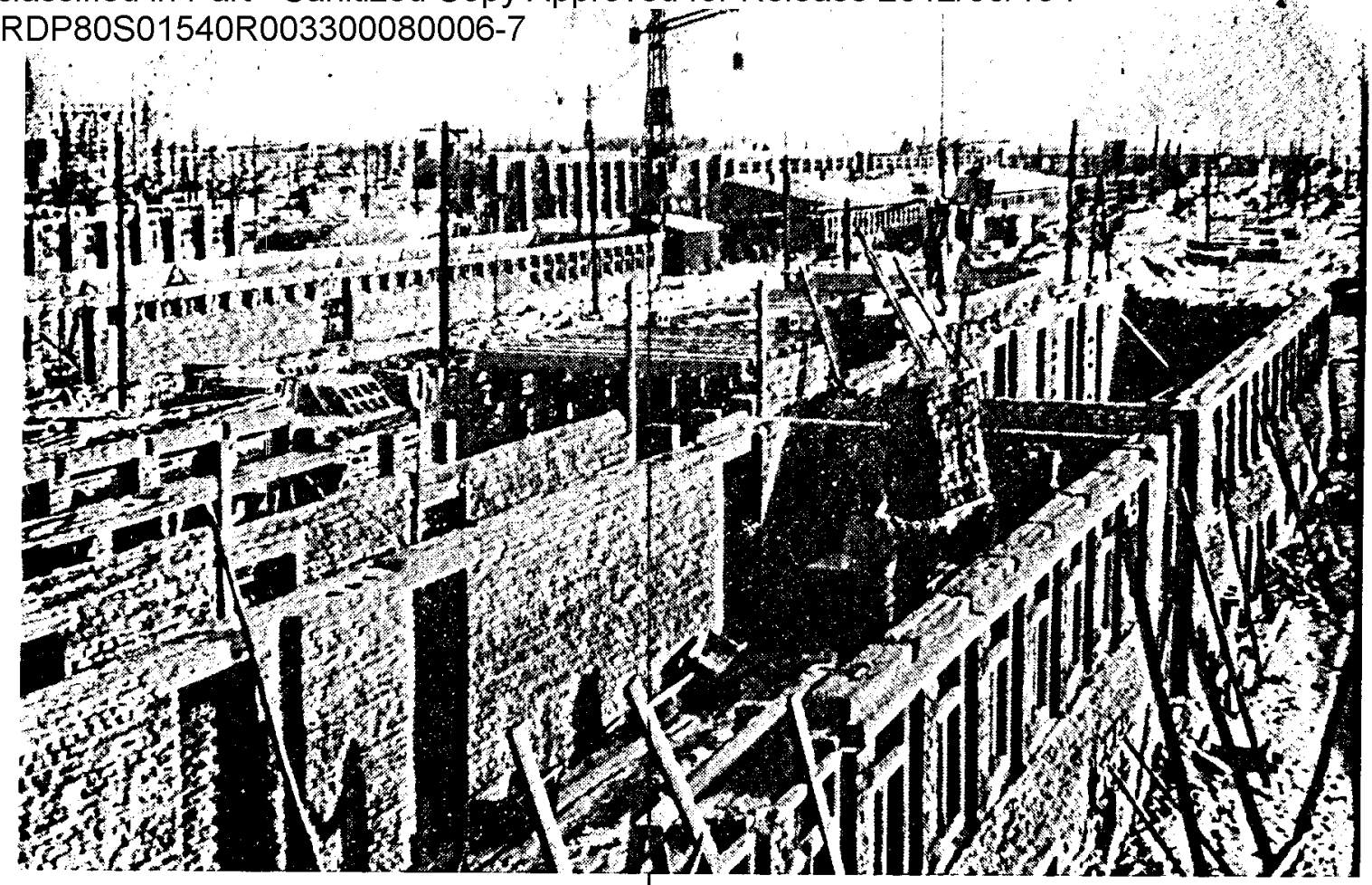

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